



30th November 2023

The First Sunday of Advent



"Light the Advent candle one, now the waiting has begun."

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tomorrow we will mark the beginning of the holy season of Advent in school, when we wait in joyful hope for Christmas Day – the birth of Jesus. As a school, we will join together in prayer and song, and we welcome all of our families to our Advent mass in church next Wednesday at 9.15am. This Advent we will be collecting gifts for children in Tameside who may not have presents to open on Christmas morning. Mrs Sibson, our RE lead, has sent a memo this week about the Tameside Toy Appeal. It is also attached to this newsletter. Please feel free to support this appeal if you are able to do so. We understand, however, in the cost of living crisis at the moment, that this is not a choice that everyone may feel able to make, so please feel under no pressure at all to donate.

**Christmas Productions** – *please email your ticket request by tomorrow (1<sup>st</sup> December).* Please also ensure that your child has a pair of black PE pumps for their Christmas play and please check that these pumps still fit them! We only have a limited stock of spare pumps in school.

Junior children will need to return to school for 5.30pm on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> December; ready for the production to begin at 6.00pm.

We greatly look forward to welcoming you all to share in 'Prickly Hay' and 'Snow White.'

**Christmas Lunch** - the children are invited to have a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is in Year 3 to Year 6 and normally has a packed lunch and would like to have a school dinner please could a payment of £2.95 be paid via the Tameside website - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/schoolmeals> All orders must be received no later than tomorrow - **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**. Children in Reception to Year 2 who normally have a packed lunch can apply to have a Christmas Dinner and payment is not required. Please note – Christmas Dinner is for children in Reception to Year 6.

**If your order is placed after this date your child will not be eligible for a Christmas dinner.**

**\*Children who normally have a school dinner will automatically be included in this special meal\*** Children are also invited to wear party clothes on this day.

**Class Assemblies at 2.45pm** – tomorrow - 1<sup>st</sup> December: Y3. All family members welcome.

**Class masses at 9.05am** – the dates of all class masses and class assemblies for this year can be found on our website at: [Mass and Assembly Rota 2023 - 2024](#)

6<sup>th</sup> December: whole school mass at 9.15am to celebrate 50 years of our building and the beginning of Advent (Tea and coffee in school afterwards)

20<sup>th</sup> December: whole school mass at 9.15am to celebrate the end of Advent.

**Year 1 and Year 2 children** - will be visiting Holy Trinity Church in Armentieres Square next week in order to take part in some lovely Advent activities. We are very grateful to our friends at Holy Trinity for the many invitations they offer to our children at St. Peter's.

**St. Peter's Nursery Unit** – we have offered some places to families of Nursery-aged children and they will be beginning with us in our Nursery class from January, 2024. If you would like to register your interest for a Nursery place for your child in the future, please contact Mrs Murray in the school office.

**Thank you** - to the many volunteers who have generously given their time and support to our upcoming Learning Links Day in EYFS, and to the Year 3 trip to The Manchester Museum. It is the strong support from family volunteers which enables us to offer these curriculum-enhancing opportunities to the children.

**Tameside Fuel 4 Fun Christmas Holiday Camps and Christmas Parties** – families who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals may wish to book places for their children on these sports camps during the Christmas holiday period. Some of the camps offer universal places, for which parents may choose to book and pay. The link and QR code to book is as follows:



<https://eequ.org/tamesidefuel4fun>

**Parents' Evenings** – it was lovely to welcome parents and carers into school to discuss the progress and development of each individual child. Our thanks go to all parents who came to meet with their child's class teacher. Here at St. Peter's, we very much value the supportive partnership we have with all of our families.

Thank you also for the wonderful positive feedback on the parental questionnaires. As a senior leadership team in school, we will meet to discuss next steps arising from any constructive feedback that parents and carers have given. If anyone did not receive a questionnaire to complete at parents' evening, and would like one, please obtain one of these from the school office. They can then be returned to your child's class teacher.

**School drop-off** – we politely ask parents to vacate the playground once they have dropped children at school in the mornings. It is getting a little bit crowded at the top of the steps to the Infant playground! Please understand that the first priority of the staff on duty is to keep the children on the playground safe. Staff need visual access to the gate on Hough Hill Road, and our junior children need access to the steps so that they can walk into school.

**Class Novels** – we wished to share with you the novels that children in Years 1-6 are enjoying at the moment.

Year 1 – *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton

Year 2 – *The Twits* by Roald Dahl

Year 3 – *The Ancient Egyptian Sleepover* by Stephen Davies

Year 4 – *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* by Roald Dahl

Year 5 – *Clockwork* by Philip Pullman

Year 6 – *Can You See Me?* by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

**Admission to school September 2024** – letters have either been posted or handed out directly. If your child is registered at our school and you have not received a copy of the application process, then contact the school office. Closing date for online applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. Please note that school requires a copy of birth and baptism certificates, along with two proofs of residency. **Even if proof of residency was submitted for a Nursery application a further 2 proof of residency is required for the 2024 admission process.** More detailed information is available on the school website under the School Admissions section.

**Wednesday Word** – at present the Wednesday Word is not always being sent via email. The weekly newsletter is still available to view on our website - <https://stpetersstalybridge.co.uk/catholic-life/wednesday-word/>

**Attendance** – There were some very high attendance figures last week, which is fantastic. A special 'well done' to children in Nursery and in Year 4. Everyone in these classes was on time for school every day!

Week commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> November									
	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Overall
Attendance	95.1%	91.3%	99.3%	96.3%	99%	98%	97.2%	92.3%	96.1%
Number of late marks	0	7	4	5	13	0	3	11	43

**Nasal Flu Vaccination Year Reception to Year 6** – the Department of Health have announced that all children in Year R - 6 are going to be offered a flu immunisation every year. At our school, the immunisation will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**NHS Guidance on keeping children well this winter** - Tameside Public Health have produced the attached leaflet with advice to help keep children well this winter. This includes information about ways to reduce the chance of catching and passing on infections, some of the more common winter illnesses and how to manage them, as well as information on vaccinations. For more information, please visit the NHS guidance link [‘Is my child too ill for school?’](#) for more help.

**PE Kit** - please ensure that you child has their full PE kit in school. Details of the PE uniform can be found under the ‘Parent Information’ tab on our school website. Please ensure junior children have their full outdoor kit – navy or black sweater and navy or black tracksuit/ jogging bottoms. Thank you very much for your support with this.

**First Holy Communion and First Sacraments** – **First Forgiveness for the Year 3 children will take place at 6:00pm in St. Peter’s Church on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Year 4 children will make their First Holy Communion at St. Peter’s Church on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a whole school thanksgiving mass to celebrate the journey of our Year 4 children on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 9.15am, to which all families in school and parishioners are invited.**

**Robinwood Residential Year 5 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024** – a chase up text has been sent showing outstanding deposits and payments to date. Please bring all payments up to date as the 5<sup>th</sup> instalment of £62.00 is due 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**School Fund** – the amount for the Academic year is £38.00, payment can be made online via the School Money Scheme. This has been set up so you may choose the amount you would like to pay as this is a voluntary donation. We are most grateful for any contributions you are able to make. All monies donated are spent on wider curriculum opportunities for the children.

**Nursery Snack Fund** - snack fund is £2.50 per week. We also ask for £1.00 a week as a voluntary contribution for curriculum enhancement. Payments are made via School Money Scheme. Nursery snack fund for this term will be £26.60. A reminder text has been sent out this week.

**Nursery Wraparound Provision** – we are pleased to offer wraparound care in our nursery unit. The sessions are from 11:55 am until 15:15. The charge is £15.00 per each afternoon session. Please speak with Mrs Walker or Mrs Evans to arrange any additional afternoons.

**Eligibility funding for 15 hours extended (pm session)** - please ensure that you apply for spring term (4<sup>th</sup> January until 28<sup>th</sup> March) as advised by the e-mail / text you will receive from the Government inviting you to reapply. **You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months. If you apply more than 3 months before the term starts, you will have to reconfirm your eligibility in your account in order to keep your code valid.**

**School Meals** - *please note we have been notified by Tameside MBC that the price of school meals is now £2.95 per day. The new weekly total will be £14.75. The total amount for this terms meals will be £112.10 (38 meals)*

Payments are made through the Tameside website - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/schoolmeals>


**If your circumstances change you may be eligible to apply for free school meals. More information is available on the school website under school meals where there is a link to a website [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside) Here, you can complete an online application to see if you are eligible.**

## **Community Events**

**Hattersley Brass Band** is a wonderful band who welcome children from Year 4 upwards who are learning to play a brass instrument. It is completely free to join, and children and adults of all abilities are most welcome – including beginners. Hattersley Brass brings together lots of families from Catholic schools in Tameside, and those who participate have the opportunity to join the Whit Friday band contest as well as many other performances. Please see the attached flyer for details of weekly meetings.

**Tameside Music Service** – Tameside Music Services rehearse every week during term time at Birch Lane Centre, Birch Lane, Dukinfield and perform in regular concerts around Greater Manchester. For more information on performing in a choir or learning to play a musical instrument, please see the attached poster on how to join.

## The Football Fun Factory upcoming football fun camps -

-  Wednesday 20th December - Friday 22nd December 2023
  -  West Hill School, SK15 1LX
  -  Drop off from 8.45am and collection between 3:15pm and 3:30pm
  -  £18 per day or £48 for the full 3-day camp! We also offer a 50% sibling discount!
  -  Boys & Girls aged 5-12!
- <https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/1067>

We also have regular weekly sessions where children can book a 3-week free trial on any of them to try out the sessions. This also includes extra sessions which are starting in January 2024 which is an exciting development for us at the Football Fun Factory as it makes our weekly sessions accessible to many more children in the Tameside community. Please see the attached posters for more information on how to join.

### Football Fun & Development (4-12 year olds):

-  West Hill School - Football Fun & Development - Monday's 5.00pm-6.00pm -  
<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/724>
-  Active Medlock - Football Fun & Development - Wednesday's 5.30pm-6.30pm -  
<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/725>
-  Alder Community High School - Football Fun & Development - Thursday's 5.00pm-6.00pm -  
<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/1710> (Launching 11/01/2024)

### Tots Football Fun (2-5 year olds):

-  West Hill High School - Tots Football Fun - Saturday's 08:45am-09:30am (2-5 years) -  
<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/727>
-  West Hill High School - Tots Football Fun - Saturday's 09:30am-10:15am (2-5 years) -  
<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/728>
-  **The Hub (Hyde) - Tots Football Fun - Thursday's 10.45am-11.30am (1.5-5 years) -**  
<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/1809>

**MTA Mainstream Theatre Arts** – our professional and qualified teachers deliver outstanding performing arts training for young people aged 3 to 18 years.

For over 40 years MTA has been enriching the lives of thousands of children, developing life skills, performance skills and future professional careers. Making us the first choice for parents that demand exacting standards of performing arts tuition. Please see attached poster for more information.

### Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December:** Nursery, Reception, and Infant Christmas Play, 9.20am and 2.15pm.

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Junior Christmas Play, 2.00pm and 6.00pm.

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas dinner and party day. Children are also invited to wear party clothes on this day.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Whole school mass 9:15am in church.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** School finishes for Christmas 2:30pm.

Kind regards

Mrs Ryan (Headteacher)



# BANDS CHOIRS ENSEMBLES



Come and join one of our groups at our designated Music Centre in Dukinfield. We meet weekly during term time and perform throughout the year. We also run events, workshops and open evenings.

## WHAT'S ON

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
4:30pm Junior Strings	4:00pm Junior Wind Band	5:00pm Band Skills	4:30pm Infant Singing
5:00pm Senior Strings	5:00pm Brass Band	6:00pm Bands Skills	4:30pm Theory Lessons
6:45pm Chamber Strings	6:00pm Wind Band	7:00pm Band Skills	5:15pm Junior Choir
			5:45pm Jazz Band
			6:00pm Senior Choir



For more information or to sign up visit our website: [www.tamesidemusicservice.com](http://www.tamesidemusicservice.com)

**BAND SKILLS INFANT CHOIR WIND BAND**  
**JUNIOR STRINGS JUNIOR CHOIR SENIOR CHOIR**  
**BRASS BAND JAZZ BAND JUNIOR WIND BAND**  
**SENIOR STRING THEORY LESSONS CHAMBER STRINGS**



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# WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

You can learn to sing or play at school or at our dedicated Music Centre in Dukinfield with one of our professional music tutors.

For more information or to sign up visit our website:

[www.tamesidemusicservice.com](http://www.tamesidemusicservice.com)

Tel: 0161 342 3132

Email: [musicservice@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@tameside.gov.uk)



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**Hattersley Brass Band**

Restarts on  
Thursday 22nd September 2022

**Beginners Band - 3.45pm-4.30pm**  
**Main Band - 4.45pm - 5.45pm**

The Ark, St James' Catholic Primary School, Hattersley.

Beginners band is open to anyone from Year 4 upwards who would like to learn how to read music.  
Main band is open to anyone from Year 4 upwards who is confident in reading music.  
Adults are more than welcome at both sessions.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1585593411714987>

## Tameside Toy Appeal Advent 2023

27th November 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We understand that Christmas will be a difficult time for many families in our local area. Action Together's Tameside Toy Appeal recognises that support is needed now more than ever.

The appeal is looking for donations of **new** and **unwrapped** gifts for babies to 18-year-olds. All gifts donated to the Tameside Toy Appeal will be given to Tameside children living in poverty. Every year the appeal receives a high demand for gifts for babies and teenagers, especially boys. If you wish to donate to the appeal, please send your gifts into school by **Monday 11th December**. St Peter's supports Action Together's mission for Tameside children living in poverty to receive a gift this Christmas. Recent research showed that more than a third of Tameside children are living in poverty. The appeal cannot accept any second hand or soft toys.

### Gift Ideas

#### Children aged 0 - 5 years old

Sensory toys, books, building blocks, bath toys, play mats, teething, dolls, cars, activity toys, fancy dress costumes, musical toys, puzzles

#### Children aged 5 - 11 years old

Colouring books and pencils, jigsaws, arts and craft kits, Play dough, Lego, science kits, remote control toys, sports games, board games, fidget toys

#### Teenagers

Stationery, cosmetic gift sets, headphones, watches, speakers, hot water bottles, make up, card games, snoodies

#### All ages

Books, gloves, hats, pyjamas, scarves, slippers, socks

Our Mini Vinnie team from Year 6 will be assisting with the coordination of the appeal. A volunteer will come and collect the toys from school to be taken to one of Tameside's Children's Centres.

Further details of the appeal can be found at [Tameside Toy Appeal 2023: Action Together](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/tameside-toy-appeal-2023)

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Sibson

RE Coordinator



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**Football Fun Factory**

**Football Fun and Development - Ages 5-12**

West Hill School, Stamford St, Stalybridge, SK15 1LX  
Monday's @ 17.00-18.00

Active Medlock, Gardenfold W, Droylsden, M43 7XU  
Wednesday's @ 17.30-18.30

Alder Community High School, Mottram Old Rd, Hyde, SK14 5NJ  
Thursday's (from 11/01/2024) @ 17.00-18.00

**Register For a 3 week Free trial**  
[www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk](http://www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk)